



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Friday, May 4, 2007  
**District:** District 2 - Redding  
**Contact:** Michael Mayor  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CORRECTION: Caltrans will be out in force on May 8, 2007**

### Caltrans is Doing Some Spring Cleaning

**REDDING** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 will join the other eleven districts and our Adopt-a-Highway volunteers on Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, for an all out litter clean-up day.

Last year, the Department of Transportation alone spent more than \$55 million picking up and disposing of 140,000 cubic yards of litter and debris along California highways. The projected annual cost to all public agencies in California for litter prevention, clean up and disposal is close to \$400 million.

“It’s a major problem and people need to take responsibility,” said District Director, Brian Crane. “The simple act of covering and securing loads in pickups and trailers will make a huge difference.”

Annually in District 2, along with the help of Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Caltrans clears more than 29,000 bags of trash off the 1,750 miles of roadway we maintain. To put it into perspective, that’s 20 dump trucks of litter and debris per week carted off to land fills.

Aside from the cost to remove it, litter effects the environment. Highway litter gets into storm drains. Storm water carries it to rivers and lakes where it can release toxins poisoning marine life and posing health risks for humans.

#### Facts at a Glance:

- The number one litter item found along highways is cigarette butts.
- Caltrans also finds objects such as mattresses, refrigerators, rugs and ladders, paper (including fast food wrappers, cups and napkins), bottles and cans along highways.
- In California it is a misdemeanor to throw anything from a moving vehicle. The penalty for littering is a \$1,000 fine.

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- The Adopt-A-Highway program was established in 1989. There are currently 3,600 groups representing 35,000 participants. More than 11,500 shoulder-miles of highway have been adopted.
- Adopt-A-Highway Program participants pick up nearly 250,000 bags of trash from California's roadsides.
- Adopt-A-Highway efforts save California taxpayers more than \$14.5 million each year.

You can make a difference by carrying a trash bag in your car. Make it a habit and dispose of it properly. If you smoke, use the ashtray and empty it every time you stop for gas. Do not leave loose items in the bed of a pickup. Empty containers of motor oil or antifreeze and things like loose trash can easily fly out at high speeds. If hauling items in an open trailer or truck bed make sure everything is securely tied down and covered.

One of the best ways to help is become an Adopt-A-Highway volunteer. Currently District 2 has 107 sites available for adoption. For more information on Adopt-A-Highway visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/adopt-a-highway.htm> or to find an available adoption site, contact Saedra Wederbrook at 530-225-3277.

Caltrans wants to remind you when you see someone picking up litter on the side of the road, slow down as if it were a Cone Zone.

To report littering or haul trucks not properly tarped, call 1-800-TellCHP (1-800-835-5247).

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**NOTE:** *An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address:* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm)

